

September 25, 1969

The Hon. Claude Pepper
United States Representative
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Pepper:

Thank you for your kind letter of September 23 and for the preliminary copies of the statements and hearings of your committee on crime. I have just returned from a brief trip abroad and will be digesting this in the next few days.

I did want to write you promptly, however, that I had just learned that several members of the Department of Psychiatry at this medical school had taken a deep interest and had a certain amount of practical experience in problems of criminal rehabilitation. If you are planning to hold hearings on the west coast, I think it could be only to the public advantage to call upon them, and I would suggest the name of Professor David Hamburg, Chairman, Department of Psychiatry, as the person to contact. I might add that he has also been serving on the Mayor's Commission on Crime in San Francisco.

A propos studies on marijuana, I think that the idea of a Presidential Commission, independent of the executive agencies, would indeed be the most sensible approach to an objective analysis. My colleague on the National Advisory Mental Health Council, Dr. L. J. West, who is now Professor of Psychiatry at UCLA Medical School, has strong views on this question, and would certainly be another person that you should be in touch with for hearings in California. You are also, I am sure, acquainted with the strong efforts that Assemblyman W. Craig Biddle has been making here in California, for an objective analysis of our state system of criminal justice. I can hardly count myself an authority on this subject, but I am rather seeking to educate myself in order to comment from a generalist's point of view. I will, nevertheless, be gratified to have a chance to meet with you, either in Washington or in this area as circumstances may permit. If you are holding hearings on the west coast, please do let me know about it.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

cc - D. Hamburg

PEPPER